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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9239
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2151
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5624
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9221
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6799
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4605
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2599
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000442

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SUBJECT: BURMA: RUMORS OF REGIME NEGOTIATIONS WITH
POLITICAL PRISONERS

Classified By: P/E Chief Jennifer Harhigh for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

¶1. (C) Prominent Burmese businessman and NGO director Nay Win Maung (protect) told Charge July 14 that he is in touch with the political prisoner Zarganar. Nay Win Maung reported that regime officials currently are negotiating with Zarganar, offering his release in exchange for affirmation of the new constitution and acceptance of the regime's planned 2010 elections. Nay Win Maung said Zarganar believes regime officials are also in discussion with prominent 88 Generation Students, who reportedly seem receptive. Nay Win Maung said an exception is Min Ko Naing, who appears unwilling to compromise his principles. Separately, another local contact told us he heard Zarganar is serving as a go-between for the GOB and 88GS prisoners as they discuss a possible bargain.

¶2. (C) We have heard nothing concrete about the regime's intentions to release prisoners, as Burma's UN PermRep related to the UNSC July 13. Some local observers believe an amnesty is likely in the coming weeks since the regime has publicly declared its plans; most are skeptical such an amnesty would include many prominent political prisoners. We note that the GOB in the past has offered conditional and restrictive terms to political prisoners in return for their release. In the past, these terms have included requirements to forgo participation in pro-democracy or anti-regime events and to support the implementation of the "Roadmap to Democracy."
DINGER